

## Opinion

### Food for thought

By PHIL HETH

I received a phone call at home Saturday morning from Anthony Baron, 15 Coolidge Avenue. He was complaining about the slippery condition of the streets on the east side and felt that the Carbondale NEWS should do something

about it. "You ought to spend less time doing something about the dirty politics in Carbondale," Baron chided. His phone call gave me a lot of food for thought. This week we therefore have a five part editorial.

If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen!

I don't like being called at home about business matters. Mr. Baron's conversation could have waited until Monday. He was frustrated, however, because he had first tried to call Mayor Fred Mancuso, City Administrator Joseph Masco, Public Works Superintendent Walter Turonis, and council president Michael Tolencio. Tolencio

was out, and the first three have unlisted numbers. Although it can be a pain on weekends, public officials should be available, even on weekends, to answer questions from concerned citizens. Mayor-elect Charlotte Moro has stated that she will keep a published phone number. The nuisance calls are a part of the job!

### Don't blame mayor for everything

Baron was blasting the mayor for fuelling most of the street department. "The city gets money from the state to plow and cinder the streets, so how can they say they don't have any money?" Baron asked. The answer is that the city hasn't received the state's payment yet, and that money is earmarked for the maintenance of the state highways which pass through Carbondale, not the city's residential streets.

Last year Mayor Mancuso proposed a budget that called for a tax increase. City council shot it down and prepared their own — one which could not possibly fund all the city's departments for the entire year. The mayor informed council that the city would run out of money and last week it did.

### Dirty politics? — No!

Mayor Fred Mancuso's term of office has less than a month remaining. Some people are critical of his month long appointments to boards and commissions which Charlotte Moro would have like to fill. The fact is that filling those vacancies is his prerogative. His appointments may prove useful

to his political organization in the future. That's politics! It would be a politically foolish move for him to leave office without filling every vacancy. The majority of residents (those who voted for Charlotte Moro) may not like Mancuso's actions, but that doesn't make his "dirty."

### Throwing in the towel

What disappoints most of us is the apparent "to heck with it" attitude of the administration. The budget which they prepared is senseless. It's a shame to have wasted the paper! There is no provision for reducing the city's deficit and no proposal for the needed tax increase. Obviously the administration is fed up with council's typical disregard of

their budget, so they have said, "What's the use? This year council will have to prepare their own version and they will have to be the ones who call for the millage hike. It would have been more honorable for Masco and Mancuso to come up with a meaningful budget, but their half-hearted effort is understandable.

### Trying to improve the city

It has been said, "Carbondale gets what they deserve," meaning that the people who run the city are put there by the majority of voters.

For decades it has been the experience of Carbondale newspaper editors that rarely

does an editorial or news article bring about a change in local government. More often than not, it generates only complaints. Those who agree (probably the vast majority) keep silent. Still, we intend to voice our opinion on local issues. We'll keep trying to change things for the better, even if the prospects are slim.

The chances of building an improved community through Scouting are much better. There are thousands of people in Lackawanna County who will testify to that. Developing good citizenship and leadership is the primary goal of the whole Boy Scout and Girl Scout program, so, as Scoutmaster of Troop 8, I'm not about to spend more time writing about "dirty politics" and less time working with Boy Scouts.

We have a "letters to the editor" section where local citizens can say what they feel. Their opinion counts just as much as mine. Let's put our good use by sharing them with the thousands who read the Carbondale News.

## Carbondale News

Established in 1872  
USPS 090-180  
Telephone 282-3300

Publisher: Philip T. Heth  
Editor: Rosemary S. Heth  
Advertising: Debbie Vento  
Circulation: 1,500  
Subscription rates: By mail in the Carbondale area, \$6 for 6 months, \$11 a year. Elsewhere in Pennsylvania, \$6.50 for 6 months, \$11 a year. Outside state, \$7.50 for 6 months, \$12 a year. All newsstands or by carrier, 25 cents a copy.

## Do you remember when...

19 YEARS AGO

John Lager, 18, of Clark Ave., poses with a 200 pound black bear he shot at 8 a.m. November 25, while hunting out of Camp Constance, Inc., Lordsburg Road, Pike County.

Billion breather device for administering breathing tests to automobile drivers was explained and demonstrated by Edward M. Lewis, Bureau of Traffic Safety, at a police school session for area police officers were held in City Council Chambers. Carbondale Police Chief Thomas J. Scalzo directed the school.

Albert H. Crane Post, No. 221, American Legion, is conducting a drive to build up its membership for 1987. At present the post has 150 members.

Adopting what company spokesmen describe as a Fair Share Formula? The Hendrick Manufacturing Company has pledged a \$75 donation for the corporation and a \$5 for each employee to the Carbondale Volunteer Firemen's Stocked Fund.

Upon the death of President Kennedy, Gerald Musari and five classmates from Providence College in Rhode Island, journeyed to the island of Hawaii to see the body.

The annual Christmas party of the Children's and Maternity Hospital of Scranton and the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Rose Church were being planned on December 15, 1963, in the St. Rose School Annex.

Terry Wagner, 121 E. Garfield in Carbondale, was named the senior, bagged an eight-point back score, and opened the year at Fiddle Lake.

Delegates to the fifth Annual Youth Conference on the Atom in Chicago looked over a model of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station before touring the actual plant.

Deputy Mayor Carlene M. Gorman was named the grand marshal of the annual parade on the city's main street.

Marlin J. Langan was elected president of the Carbondale School Board.

Joseph C. Norris, vice president of the Carbondale School Board, was elected to the board.

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## J.P. Doodles

LIFE WITH AN UNSUCCESSFUL HUNTER IS THE PITS HE DUMPS ON ME, I DUMP ON THE KIDS, AND THE KIDS...



Cardamon Motor Co. Building at 129 Pike St.

The following were elected as officers of the Stillwater District of the City School Board, reported to the City School Board by the Carbondale School District had 2,164 students with 101 instructors.

Chief Meteorologist Richard E. Simmermacher reported that the mercury hit a low of 4 degrees at 4 a.m., December 10 at Avoca Airport to break the December 10 record low of 5 set in 1977, dropped to 1 below zero on December 11 to break the old record of 5 below, and December 12 set a new record of 3 above breaking the old record of 3.

The NEWS published a photo of the student of the Freshman Class of the Carbondale School District, Susan Barlow, president, Celi Ruggerio, vice president, Linda Taylor, secretary, and Marion Kitchin, treasurer.

Palatka Workers Lodge No. 71, Ladies Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, installed the following officers: President, Mrs. Mary Thompson, succeeding Mrs. Helen Loftis, vice president, Mrs. Mary O'Hara, secretary, Mrs. Margaret O'Keefe, treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Dugan, chaplain, Mrs. Helen Vickers, warden, Mrs. Mary Benjamine, Prayers, High School Sweet, inner guard, Mrs. Laura Sweet, outer guard, Mrs. Helen Sweet.

The Russell Park skating rink was opened to skaters Thursday evening, December 11, by the Carbondale School Board.

A dedication ceremony was held at the new Carbondale Community Park to mark the opening of the facility.

Thinking of family and friends as the holiday season approaches are Nicholas and Nicholas Bonacci, 3014 Inner Circle, Baltimore, Maryland.

Nicholas is the daughter of Frank and Millie Bonacci, formerly of Parvise St. Nicholas is the son of Louis and Gertrude Thelma Bonacci of Hagerstown, Md. The Bonaccis have three daughters, Maria, Catherine and Ann, Nick's brothers are Father Louis A. Bonacci, Winston, Salem, N.C., and Fred, of Carbondale.

First of two-part history

Remember Atlantic League?

This is the first part of a two-part series on the history of the North Atlantic Baseball League. The Carbondale franchise was one of that league's premiere teams.

By PAUL OLAND

After World War II, as the troops returned home and life returned to normal, there was a professional baseball boom in the U.S.

As a result, a number of minor leagues that had suspended play when war broke out were reorganized. Additionally new leagues popped up across the map in 1945 and early 1946. By May of '46 41 of them were operating, and it moved these was the North Atlantic League.

The NAL opened play on May 1, 1946 with eight clubs, and a "D" classification, which was then the lowest rung of organized baseball.

Responsible for the league's birth was President Ernest Landgraf of Allentown, and officials from each of the circuit's franchises. Charter members included Carbondale, Stroudsburg, Mahanoy City and Nazareth, Pa., Peaskill, Nyack and Wakefield, N.Y., and Bloomingdale, N.J.

The warbirds of the league were few as the majority of members were independent. This would be the general rule throughout the league's history.

Most of the member communities had been holding on to their pro and sandlot ball. John Schutte, formerly a scout for the Cleveland Indians, was in Waukegan, Ill., remembered the "Bloomingdale had always been a semi-pro stronghold. That's the way the team was drawn together by their enthusiastic history of baseball, and by having suitable playing facilities, at least up to Class D standards.

The other common thread was the size of the communities, which would fall into the general category of large towns. A notable exception was tiny Bloomingdale, a village of less than 2,000. Yet the attendance there was

## Keeping in touch

Nick and Nicholina Bonacci



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